

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A buffer tube for a communication cable, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture with a flexural modulus ranging from about 150 to about 360 kpsi.

2. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 1, wherein the flexural modulus ranges from about 180 kpsi to about 280 kpsi.

3. (Original) A buffer tube for a communication cable, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture comprising HIPS.

4. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 3, wherein the polymer mixture also comprises SBS.

5. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 4, wherein the polymer mixture comprises about 80 to about 95 volume percent HIPS and about 5 to about 20 volume percent SBS.

6. (Currently amended) The buffer tube of claim 3, wherein CPS, ~~or~~ ABS or a combination thereof is ~~are~~ used in place of the HIPS or in combination with the HIPS.

7. (Currently amended) The buffer tube of claim 3, wherein SAN, SMA, ~~or~~ SMMA or a combination thereof is ~~are~~ used in place of the HIPS or in combination with the HIPS.

8. (Original) A buffer tube for a communication cable, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture containing HIPS and SBS.
9. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 8, wherein the polymer mixture has a flexural modulus ranging from about 150 to about 360 kpsi.
10. (Original) The buffer tube of claim 8, wherein the polymer mixture comprises about 80 to about 95 volume percent HIPS and about 5 to about 20 volume percent SBS.
11. (Original) A communication cable containing a buffer tube, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture with a flexural modulus ranging from about 150 to about 360 kpsi.
12. (Original) The cable of claim 11, wherein the flexural modulus ranges from about 180 kpsi to about 280 kpsi.
13. (Original) A communication cable containing a buffer tube, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture comprising HIPS.
14. (Original) The cable of claim 13, wherein the polymer mixture also comprises SBS.
15. (Original) The cable of claim 14, wherein the polymer mixture comprises about 80 to about 95 volume percent HIPS and about 5 to about 20 volume percent SBS.

16. (Currently amended) The cable of claim 13, wherein CPS, ~~or~~ ABS or a combination thereof is ~~are~~-used in place of the HIPS or in combination with the HIPS.
17. (Currently amended) The cable of claim 13, wherein SAN, SMA, ~~or~~ SMMA or a combination thereof is ~~are~~-used in place of the HIPS or in combination with the HIPS.
18. (Original) A communication cable containing a buffer tube, the buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture containing HIPS and SBS.
19. (Original) The cable of claim 18, wherein the polymer mixture has a flexural modulus ranging from about 150 to about 360 kpsi.
20. (Original) The cable of claim 18, wherein the polymer mixture comprises about 80 to about 95 volume percent HIPS and about 5 to about 20 volume percent SBS.
21. (Original) A communications system containing a cable, the cable containing a buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture containing HIPS and SBS.
22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the polymer mixture has a flexural modulus ranging from about 150 to about 360 kpsi.
23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the polymer mixture comprises about 80 to about 95 volume percent HIPS and about 5 to about 20 volume percent SBS.

24. (Original) A method of making a buffer tube for a communication cable,
comprising:
providing a polymer mixture containing HIPS and SBS;
melting the polymer mixture; and
extruding the melted polymer mixture.
25. (Original) A method for communicating, comprising:
providing a cable with a buffer tube comprising a polymer mixture of HIPS and SBS;
and
transmitting a signal over the cable.
26. (New) The buffer tube of claim 3, wherein the polymer mixture is filled,
contains an antioxidant, contains a processing aid, or a combination thereof.